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Matcha Made in Heaven

UMEBACHI YAMANAKA

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1st Cup　Family Crisis

Matcha
Made in
Heaven

HANANOKI-SENSEEEI. YOUR BUTT'S LOOKIN' GREAT TODAY, AS ALWAYS!

TODAY, LIKE ALWAYS, I AM FRUSTRATED, I AM TIRED...

MATSUDA-SAN.

FOCUS ON YOURSELF.

...BUT I TELL MYSELF I MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS. I LET IT ROLL OFF MY BACK.

UNIVERSITY OF YUOAKA

BOTTLE: GREEN TEA

DAY AFTER DAY...

NOW WHY DO WOMEN HAVE TO GET SO EMOTIONAL AT WORK?

ALL I CAN DO IS PUT IT BEHIND ME.

I PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE. I PRETEND NOT TO FEEL.

MUST BE NICE. YOU FEMALES ALWAYS GET TO USE YOUR "CONDITION" AS AN EXCUSE.

SEE, THIS IS WHY I SAY WOMEN ARE—

THEY'RE STILL SAYING SUCH THINGS!? WHAT JERKS!

BANG

BOTTLE: GREEN TEA

'CAUSE YOU'RE USUALLY SMILING.

IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU LIKE THAT, SEMPAI.

YOU USED TO SAY YOU DIDN'T LIKE BOTTLED TEA.

YOU WERE TOO PISSED OFF TO NOTICE?

That's scary.

SMILE フロ

...OH, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANYONE AROUND...

I DON'T SEE YOU DRINK TEA THAT OFTEN, EITHER.

HANANOKI-SAN, WEREN'T YOUR PARENTS TEA FARMERS?

YUP, YOU SURE DID.

OH NO. I SAID THAT?

How arrogant of me!

I SEE. I...

...CAN DRINK IT NOW...

BOTTLE: GREEN TEA, REFRESHING AND CLEAR AROMA.

緑茶

Thanks! You, too!

Great work today!

I WATER DOWN...

...NOT TO FEEL THEM...

...A LOT OF THINGS...

...SO I CAN KEEP MOVING FOR-WARD...

I HAVE TO DO IT...

HAAH

I WANT TO FORGET.

IT'S A CUTE NAME. HOW LOVELY!

YES, I COME FROM A FAMILY OF TEA FARMERS...

OH, YOUR NAME IS CHAKO-SAN? LIKE "CHA" AS IN "TEA"?

ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET MARRIED SOON, THEN.

SHE LOST HER PARENTS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG...

...SO NOW HER BROTHER RUNS THE FAMILY BUSINESS BY HIMSELF.

...OH. YOU MUST'VE HAD A HARD TIME.

I'M A FITNESS INSTRUCTOR.

WOW. WHAT A TOUGH JOB!

WHAT DO YOU DO, CHAKO-SAN?

RIGHT.

BECAUSE WOMEN ARE HAPPIEST AT HOME, TAKING CARE OF THEIR FAMILIES, RIGHT?

KER-CHAK

OH. FINALLY, HE'S HOME.

OH, CHAKO-SAN. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE TEA?

DON'T WORRY. IN OUR FAMILY, WOMEN CAN STAY HOME.

BUT I...

WELL... I... WILL WORK...

DARLING, YOU'RE BACK.

EVERYONE'S HERE ALREADY.

HERE, GIVE ME YOUR FOOT.

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED! WE HAVE A GUEST.

YOU HAVE TO WIPE THEM WELL.

NOW, THE OTHER ONE.

OH, MY, THAT'S RIGHT.

SHE'S NOT A GUEST ANYMORE.

...ARE GOING TO BE A FAMILY, AREN'T WE?

WE...

...YOUR JOB, CHAKO-SAN.

THIS WILL SOON BE...

OH, HOW I'LL MISS IT...

EEK!

THUMP

THUMP

GASP

GASP

THUMP

THUMP

IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH, THOUGH...

DREAMS ARE SO SCARY!

I'M SO TRAUMATIZED THAT I EVEN DREAM ABOUT IT...?

...IT WAS...

...A DREAM ...?!

CREAK

BUT THE SCARIEST THING IS...

...BEING TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS AND NEVER SEEING ANY HINT OF THAT KIND OF THING FROM...

...HIM.

CHAKO...

GOOD MORNING.

キキ

被害届

BAM

NO, NO, NO, NO!!

WHAT?! I DON'T GET IT! HOW DID HE GET IN HERE?!

キキ

COMPLAINT REPORT

BAM

キキ

退職届

RESIGNATION LETTER

キキ

NOTIFICATION OF RESIDENCE CHANGE

住民異動届

キキ

BAM

I CAN'T ANYMORE!! I CAN'T...!!

HOTEL

ホテル

FWIP

はっ

FWIP

はっ

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

SIGN:NAPA HOTEL

FU DASH
FU

28 YEARS OLD.

I'M CHAKO HANANO-KI.

NO JOB.

NO HOME.

ON THE RUN FROM MY EX-FIANCÉ.

狭山茶
花ノ本園

...IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE I LAST CAME TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE...

...

SIGN: (TOP) SAYAMA TEA, (BOTTOM) HANANOKI-EN / "HANANOKI-GARDENS"

RATTLE
ガラガラ…

THE PROBLEM IS WORK...

WELL, ITS ONLY MY BROTHER LIVING HERE...

HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN...?

I'M SURE THERE ARE SOME EXTRA ROOMS...

I GUESS EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY...

RATTLE

...IF I TELL HIM I'M GONNA HELP HIM WITH HOUSEWORK AND THE TEA FARM...

WHAT?

...WHO...

...WHO ARE YOU...?

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

HEEEEY, YOU...! DON'T TOUCH IT!

HERE! COME HERE!

???

COME ON! HURRY!! CAREFUL! CAREFUL!

ROACHIE.

ちょ

TAP

AAAH-HHHH!!

BUZZ

COPY THAT.

ぺちっ

PLAP

NO.

SQUISH

NO.

NO.

BUZZ

BUZZ

SLAP

AAAAHHHHHH!!

THUD

WHAT HAPPENED?! FUTABA?!

ISSHIN!

PEEK

I WAS BEING A PARTY ANIMAL.

What's that?

HEY. YOU'VE MADE A HUGE MESS.

5

Can you wait over there?

W... WAIT...

Copy that!

WHO ARE YOU?!

ANYWAY...

...WHO ARE YOU?

OH, NO.

HAVE I STARTED TO HALLUCINATE...?

WHAT?

THIS IS... OUR HOUSE... RIGHT?

BAM

Y-

YABUKI IS MY...

...BROTHER.

ARE YOU ANOTHER ONE OF YABUKI'S ANNOYING FANS?

MY...MY ID! YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU SEE IT!

Any-way...

WHO'S THIS GUY? WHAT'S WITH HIS ATTITUDE ...?!

THAT'S NEWS TO ME!

FUNNY, SOME CRAZY CHICK TOLD ME THE SAME THING THE OTHER DAY

IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TALK IF HE WERE HERE...

WELL... WHERE IS...MY BROTHER...?

GOOD, FUTABA.

...

IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS YOUR AUNT.

YOUR...

...SISTER.

DADDY'S ...

...??

WHAT?

DAZED

YOUR FAMILY.

DRIP

カチャ

KA-CHAK

TMP

ぽとん

I WILL DO IT.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

...HERE YOU ARE.

WAIT. WHY...

...TH-THANK YOU.

...AM I RELAXING AND HAVING TEA...?

STAAARE

And she's looking at me.

THIS IS DELICIOUS. YOU'RE GOOD AT MAKING TEA.

OUR TEA REALLY IS THE BEST...

IT'S GOOD...

GRIN

CHAKO... ARE YOU GONNA LIVE HERE STARTING TODAY...?

SLIDE

ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP WITH FUTABA...?

FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET

Grinning?

IS SHE BEING SHY...?

NO.

...

ARE YOU GONNA BE ISSHIN'S WIFE?

OH.

MOMMY IS HERE!

OH, RIGHT... SO WHERE IS YOUR MOM?

WELL, THEN... WE'LL HAVE TO ASK YOUR MOM IF WE CAN SLEEP TOGETHER.

HERE!

AND?

COPY THAT!

FUTABA, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SWIMMING LESSONS. GO GET READY AND WAIT IN YOUR ROOM.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

...WHAT?

THIS IS MY PARENTS' HOUSE...

...MY NAME IS ISSHIN KAZASHI.

I'M NOT ASKING YOUR NAME. WHY ARE YOU HERE?! I'M OVERWHELMED WITH SO MUCH NEW INFORMATION!

YOU'RE DIVORCED AND CAME BACK?

NO! WHO THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

I LIVE AND WORK HERE.

I'VE BEEN MAKING TEA HERE INSTEAD OF YABUKI FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

...HE'S WRITING STUFF.

AS A SIDE JOB.

...HUH?

W...WAIT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "INSTEAD OF YABUKI"?!

WHAT'S HE BEEN UP TO?!

IT'S BECAUSE HE CAN'T KEEP THE BUSINESS GOING.

HOW... COME?

YOU SAY YOU'RE THE TEA FARMERS' DAUGHTER, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DO YOU?

WELL, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT...

HEY.

...IN EXCHANGE FOR LETTING ME STAY–

I'M... ACTUALLY UNEMPLOYED... RIGHT NOW, SO...

YOU CAME BACK TO HELP WITH THE FARM?

WOMEN CAN'T JUST COME AND DO THIS JOB. IT'S TOO PHYSICALLY DEMANDING.

NO WAY.

THINKING YOU'D BE HELPFUL?

YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT SERIOUSLY, HUH?

YOU MUST BE THINKING IT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL DO UNTIL YOU GET MARRIED.

MUST BE NICE. YOU FE-MALES...

NOW WHY DO WOMEN...

HOW LONG DOES THIS HAVE TO LAST?

I BET YOU'LL BE GONE TOMORROW, ANYWAY.

...SO FEEL FREE TO STAY.

WELL, THIS *IS* YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE...

WHEN DOES THIS END?

...NOT GONNA LEAVE.

CREAK

HAAH.

IT'S SO ANNOYING TO HEAR...

...JUST TO PROTECT THEIR SHITTY SELF-ESTEEM.

...JERKS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN...

I'M NOT GOING TO...

...LEAVE.

YEAH, YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THEM. YOU DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO GENUINELY SEE OR TALK TO PEOPLE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS KIND OF PERSON IS MAKING TEA.

THUMP

I'M SORRY. WE'RE NOT FIGHTING.

NAH, SHE MUST BE SCARED OF YOU.

WHAT ?!

CHAKO...

FUTABA-CHAN...?!

DAZED

うっとり...

PLEASE LET ME JOIN...

...YOUR LOVER'S QUARREL...

WHAT?! ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS?!

...OKAY.

ISSHIN, IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LOVEY-DOVEY, THEN HAVE A LOVER'S QUARREL ABOUT CHEATING, OKAY?

JUST LIKE THAT...

...OUR THREE-PERSON LIFE WAS ABOUT TO START.

Matcha
Made in
Heaven

Matcha
Made in
Heaven

2nd Cup　Catch Me in the Tea Field

SWIMMING SCHOOL
FITNESS CLUB
Green Sports
スイミングスクール
フィットネスクラブ
OH?
SWIMMING
Green Sports
スイミ
THIS IS CHAKO!
FUTABA-CHAN, YOU'RE NOT WITH ISSHIN-SAN TODAY?
NICE TO MEET YOU...
NOPE!

Ohh.

Hello.

THIS IS MY AUNT!

Futaba-chan!

Hello.

Ohh.

THIS IS CHAKO!

しゅた

WHOOSH

I wanted to see him.

Whaaat?

OKAY, SO ISSHIN-KUN IS NOT HERE TODAY.

THAT GUY IS...ACTUALLY POPULAR FOR SOME REASON...?

Even though he's like *that*.

If you have nothing to do...

...drop her off and pick her up.

Like this...

FIDGET もじもじ FIDGET

...ARE YOU COMING TO PICK ME UP, TOO...?

...I'LL BE WATCHING AND WAITING FOR YOU IN THAT VIEWING AREA...

!

HN! BA-DUMP

OH, SURE. OF COURSE. RATHER...

I MEAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT AT ALL...

GLANCE ちら

GLANCE ちら

MY NIECE...

IT WAS TOTALLY UNEX-PECTED...

I'm sorry, Futaba-chan...

WAVE ふり

WAVE ふり

IT IS TRUE THAT I WASN'T TAKING IT SERIOUSLY. I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD QUIETLY RETIRE HERE AND JUST NEVER GET MARRIED.

...THINKING THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH HOUSE STUFF— EVEN HOPING THEY'D ASK ME TO STAY.

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I WAS SO OPTIMISTIC WHEN I CAME BACK HERE...

YOU MUST BE THINKING IT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL DO UNTIL YOU GET MARRIED.

FLAP パタ

FLAP パタ

YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT SERIOUSLY, HUH?

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

IS THAT REALLY YOUR AUNT...?

SHE'S CHAKO.

HEY, FUTABA-CHAN.

WHISPER

I'M HOME!

HEY.

IT WAS REALLY MESSY BEFORE. AND DINNER'S READY, TOO!

WHAT?! SERIOUSLY?

!!

WHEN DID HE DO IT...?

REALLY FEELS LIKE I'M BACK HOME!

IT'S SO NOSTALGIC ...!!

GREEN TEA LEAF TEMPURA...!

THAT'S FUTABA'S.

IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO, TAKE IT TO HIM. YABUKI IS IN THE OUT-BUILDING.

...

THAT'S YABUKI'S.

3 servings.

OH... I'M SORRY. THEN, THIS ONE...?

STOMP

STOMP

KER-CHAK

KER-CHAK

I BROUGHT YOU DINNER. CAN I OPEN THE DOOR?

YABUKI.

ANYWAY, WHO'S THAT GUY CALLED ISSHIN? HE'S A JERK.

...CHAKO?

CLATTER

Here ???

LEAVE IT THERE. I'M BUSY NOW.

PHEW ほっ

UM, YEAH.

...THEN ABOUT YOUR CHILD...

ASK ISSHIN.

HEY... CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT OUR HOME?

ISSHIN'S IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING RELATED TO OUR HOUSEHOLD, SO ASK HIM.

BANG

I TALKED TO ISSHIN, BUT I DON'T GET IT. THAT'S WHY I AM...

HEY!

...I REALLY DON'T CARE IF YOU UNDERSTAND OR NOT...

WHO'S THIS?

WHAT?

RIGHT NOW...

THE DEAD-LINE...

...IS...

I MEAN, HE SURE IS MY BROTHER, BUT...

THE...

TOP...

PRIORITY.

NO...
NO, NO,
NO, NO.

BANG

MY BROTHER...

...FUTABA-CHAN...

...AND PEOPLE AT THE SWIMMING SCHOOL SAY...

ISSHIN.

ISSHIN.

ISSHIN.

IS EVERYONE BRAINWASHED?

SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.

HE SAYS HORRIBLE STUFF AS EASILY AS HE BREATHES.

SO HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!

ISSHIN-SAN.

THUD

THUD

THUD

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP...

THESE.

YOU'RE GONNA LOAD THE TRUCK WITH THESE, RIGHT?

LET ME HELP YOU.

FRUMPY

I'll catch them—

...

START TOSSING THEM WHEN-EVER!

I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S TWO-FACED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S AFTER...

HE WINS OVER EVERYONE.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

I WILL FIND OUT WITH MY OWN EYES.

...SO I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

...BUT NOW MY BROTHER IS USE-LESS...

SHUD

Two?

TOSS ぽ

BAG:ORGANIC COMPOUND FERTILIZER

TOSS

TOSS

I'M GONNA THROW THESE THERE.

!!

MOVE.

20k

...!

I WILL REVEAL YOUR DARK SIDE...!!

...BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING INCONVENIENT ABOUT ME BEING HERE, RIGHT...?!

HE TRIES TO GET RID OF ME...

The next day.

I will help you.

The day after that.

THIS LOUSY JERK...!!

IT'S SO HOT... I DIDN'T THINK THE SUN IN MAY WOULD BE THIS HARSH...

WHOOSH

THIS MACHINE, TOO... I THOUGHT 4KG WOULD BE LIGHT, BUT IT'S NO JOKE IF YOU HAVE TO WALK AROUND WITH IT.

Blowing away the dew.

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

!!!

THAT'S A TEA FARMER IN OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD...

DO THEY KNOW EACH OTHER...?

I GUESS HE CAN LAUGH...

...SOME-TIMES.

They're tasting tea...?

I'M SURE THAT SMILE IS FAKE.

...BUT HE'S ONLY COLD WITH ME.

I don't care, though.

I KINDA KNEW...

カラ カラ…
RATTLE RATTLE

...

VRRRR
ブーロロロロ

VRRRRR
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

PHEW
ふっ

A PART OF ME WANTED TO THINK IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.

THERE'S NO WAY HE TAKES GOOD CARE OF TEA.

HE'S A PERSON WHO SAYS SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS.

...FROST DAMAGES ALL THE GREEN TEA LEAVES, WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF FOR A WHOLE YEAR.

IF THE FROST PROTECTION FANS STOP WORKING...

THAT'S WHY TEA FARMERS CHECK THE FIELD MULTIPLE TIMES AT NIGHT.

THERE'S NO WAY HE GOES TO CHECK THE FIELD.

...HE WAKES UP TO CHECK THE FIELD EVERY TWO HOURS.

4:18

...SUCH A SERIOUS PERSON...

カラ
RATTLE

カラ…
RATTLE

OF COURSE, I'M GONNA GO BACK TO BED WHEN IT'S READY.

...IT'S TOO EARLY, ISN'T IT?

...CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M PREPARING BREAKFAST.

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU ALSO SHOULD SLEEP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

...ISSHIN-SAN.

THANKS.

FWIP

HOW STRANGE... WHAT A SURPRISE.

FM Chappy*!

*A RADIO STATION'S NAME.

WHRRRRR

I'LL GO HOME...

I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP WATCH ANYMORE...

TODAY IS THE DAY FOR... TEA PICKING...

CHAKO.

コ TMP

!!...

NOOOO.

OH?

STOMP ドドド

Chakooo.

GET ME AWAY FROM HIM!!

JUST GO!!

GRAB

YOU FOOL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE TRACTOR WILL TIP OVER!

CAN'T YOU GO FASTER THAN THIS?!

HE'LL CATCH UP WITH US!

SHUT UP. IT CAN'T GO ANY FASTER!

TALK ABOUT WHAT?! OUR RELATIONSHIP IS ALREADY OVER...!

はぁ HUFF

はぁ HUFF

CHAKO! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY?! LET'S TALK!

ALSO, YOU'RE TRAUMATIZED...

YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME...!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?!

I'M NOT TRAUMATIZED FROM ANY-THING!!

STOP!!

DON'T TOUCH ME!

CHAKO.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

STOP!!

COME HERE.

I'M TIRED OF EVERYONE.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

I...

GRAB

I...

...TO THIS GUY!!

I'M MARRIED...

...GO ALONG WITH IT...

PLEASE...

MUMBLE

DON'T LET FUTABA SEE.

IF YOU FEEL SCARED, STOP IT WITH THE LEVER.

KEEP DRIVING.

HUG

GRAK

CHAKO! CHA...

HEY, WHO ARE YOU?!

...THANK YOU.

?

SLUMP

...

...

BUT...

WHAT A FARCE WE'VE BREWED UP...

3rd Cup　Futaba's Concern

POP

CONGRATU-LATIONS!

COME ON! HAVE A SEAT! WE COULDN'T WAIT AND ALREADY STARTED THE PARTY!

YOU COULD'VE TOLD US THAT YOU WERE ALREADY TOGETHER.

YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD AVOID THE BUSIEST SEASON WHEN HAVING A BABY.

YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T PLAN WELL.

GOOD JOB, CHAKO-CHAN!

THANK YOU...

WE'RE ALL DELIGHTED 'CAUSE THERE AREN'T MANY SUCCESSORS FOR TEA FARMS.

どぉ〜っはっはっは

Ha Ha Ha Ha

...COULD EVEN BE HEARD FROM THE FARAWAY FARMS.

I'M MARRIED! MARRIED! MARRIED!

MY EXTRA-LOUD SCREAMS...

...YES-TERDAY ...

?!

...AND THEY WERE MORE INTER-ESTED IN US THAN IN THE POLICE.

THE RUMOR SPREAD BEFORE I KNEW IT...

What do you mean, you're married?

Chako-chan! Hey!

Anyway, when did you come back? You're married?

I...I'M SORRY... ACTUALLY...

ACTUALLY, WE ARE.

MUTTER ボソボソ

NOW, YOU GO ALONG WITH ME.

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD. YOU WERE NEVER INTERESTED WHEN WE TRIED TO INTRODUCE A WOMAN TO YOU.

WE WANTED TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF OUR FAMILY, THOUGH.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING, YOU CAN COME TO OUR FAMILY. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE DIVORCED.

SWEAT

SWEAT

?!

?!

?!

We should celebrate at our house tomorrow.

HEY, GO EASY ON HIM. HIS WIFE IS NOT IN A GOOD MOOD.

I SEE...

WHAT?! UM, I DON'T MIND...

COUGH

HIC

YOU DON'T WANNA SEE PEOPLE TALK TO YOUR NEWLYWED HUSBAND LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

Even though they're much older.

OH... UMM... WELL... I FEEL A LITTLE JEALOUS.

...YOU KNOW...?

O... OKAY...

This is all Chako can do.

I'M NOT GOOD AT THIS KIND OF STUFF...!

THAT WAS EMBARRAS-SING.

WHAT THE HECK?! HE WAS ASKING FOR HELP, THOUGH...!

AND HE CAN'T EVEN PUT ON A SMILE...!

You two are cute together.

GROSS.

?!

ガーン...
GLOOM

I APPRECIATE THAT HE HELPED ME...

UUURRRR-RGH...!!

...BUT...

IT'S REALLY ANNOYING...!! WHY ARE HIS WORDS SO HARSH...?!

OF ALL THE WORDS I COULD BE CALLED RIGHT NOW, "GROSS" RANKS AS THE WORST!

SOUNDS GREAT!

OH, DO A BRIDAL CARRY POSE!

GRAB

I'M NOT GONNA GIVE IN...!!

HEY, YOU TWO. WE SHOULD GET A PHOTO AS A MEMENTO.

CLING

MUTTER

THIS IS BETTER THAN A BRIDAL CARRY POSE, RIGHT?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

MUTTER

?!

MUTTER

BE PATIENT.

A BRIDAL CARRY IS BETTER, DON'T YOU THINK? IT'S MORE PHOTOGENIC.

ISSHIN-KUN LOOKS KINDA STIFF.

WHACK

HEY!

OUCH!

WE'LL NEVER DO IT.

...A BRIDAL CARRY...

I ALSO WANNA SEE...

SQUEEZE

HEY, THAT HURTS!

I KNOW...

KEEP PLAYING ALONG!

HEY!

SQUEEZE

I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT YOU HELPED ME.

I'M JUST TRYING TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION.

...YOU...

SQUEEZE

YOU'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU...?

...“A WOMAN LIKE YOU IS A USELESS BITCH.”

YOU SAID THIS TO ME...

BUT...I CAN’T FORGET...WHAT YOU SAID...

...WHAT IS IT?

I’ll take another one.

DON’T EXAGGERATE...

SQUEEZE

...I DIDN’T SAY IT LIKE THAT...

WELL...EVEN THOUGH I'M A *WOMAN*...

I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW HELPFUL I CAN BE.

SQUEEZE

REALLY...?

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
YOU'RE NOT HAPPY TO SEE YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND GET MARRIED BEFORE YOU, EH?
JIN, WHAT'S UP?
I JUST CAN'T DRINK THAT MUCH DURING THE DAY.
I'll go get some water.
CHATTER
CHATTER
TNK

SHE'S COMPLETELY CHANGED...

HEY, FUTABA-CHAN.

SERIOUSLY? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... DID I LOSE TO THAT WOMAN...?

SHAKE

SHAKE

IS THAT HER? THE PERSON WHO LOOKS LIKE AN OCTOPUS?

IS SHE ISSHIN-SAN'S WIFE?

Yup.

THAT'S CHAKO.

They made her drink a lot.

WHY DIDN'T ISSHIN-SAN CHOOSE ME...? ALL MEN ARE ATTRACTED TO YOUNG GIRLS, RIGHT?!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THAT SEAWEED MONSTER...?!

FLUFF

FLUFF

UMMM.

WHY?!

...I ALSO LIKE CHAKO.

WOBBLE
ふらぁ
OH.
OUR DOG, COCOA, IS FLUFFIER!
COCOA
SHE'S FLUFFY...
...
OH?
Why are you here?!
OHHH!
I SEE. FUTABA-CHAN, THAT'S IT!
?
...
...CLOSE TO EACH OTHER...
...THEY DON'T REALLY LOOK...

AND...

?

THEY'RE A FAKE COUPLE!

ピロン♪

FLASH

ピロン♪

CRACK

...THEY WILL DIVORCE VERY SOON.

I have to become a better woman!

FUTABA-CHAN, I'M GONNA HEAD HOME!

WHOOSH

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

THAT SEAWEED WOMAN WILL BE GONE ONCE THEY GET DIVORCED...!

THEN, IT'S GONNA BE MY TURN...!

...

DIVORCE...

CHEW もそ もそ CHEW

NIBBLE ちびっ

NIBBLE ちびっ

CHEW もそ

CHEW もそ

…

SHUT ピタ

…FUTABA-CHAN, YOU'VE BEEN QUIET LATELY. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

はっ GASP

I'M GOOD. I'M FINE.

?

Thank you for the food!

はぐ MUNCH

NO. I'M GREAT.

はぐ MUNCH

SHE WILL BE GONE ONCE THEY GET DIVORCED...!

...I...

...WILL BE FINE...

...

HMMM. I WONDER IF I CAN DECORATE THIS BETTER...

TODAY'S SATURDAY, SO I'M THINKING OF GOING OUT WITH FUTABA-CHAN.

OH, I'VE TOLD MY BROTHER ABOUT THIS.

...ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?

I'LL CLEAN UP!

YOU ARE MAKING A MESS LIKE FUTABA...

LABEL: FUN ANIMAL PICKS

EASY BENTO

IF IT'S NOT JUST MY IMAGINATION, FUTABA-CHAN'S BEEN QUIET LATELY.

WELL...

DO YOU KNOW WHY...?

MY FIRST かんたん DECORATION BENTO おべんとう

はじめてのデコ弁

ALUMINUM FOIL

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...

AFTER YOU CAME, SHE WAS SUPER HAPPY, THOUGH...

NO... I DON'T KNOW THE REASON...

...BUT SHE'S BEEN WEIRD.

ソん TMP

...I SEE...

...I WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

...BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE TEA FIELD...

...I HOPE SHE FEELS BETTER AFTER GOING OUT...

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

SHUT

D

O

A

N...

Hen.

*JAPANESE BLACK TEA.

THAT'S FUTABA'S FAVORITE.

WAKOCHA*.

SLOSH

IRUMA CITY SAKURAYAMA OBSERVATORY

入間市桜山展望台

LOOK, FUTABA-CHAN!

HE'S SO SWEET WHEN IT COMES TO FUTABA-CHAN.

...
AMAZING.

WE CAN SEE OUR TEA FIELD, TOO.

WHAT?!

MOUNT FUJI...

SEIBU DOME.

SKYTREE...

I'M GLAD...

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING FUN...

WOOW.

HERE

YOU'RE RIGHT! IS THAT ISSHIN?

IT MIGHT BE.

CLATTER

ALL RIGHT. I'M GONNA TAKE SOME PICTURES OF FUTABA-CHAN.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

OH, NO...! UGH. THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THEM IN THE CAR...

I'LL PICK THEM UP.

WHAT...? I'M SORRY.

...CHAKO?

?

...DID SHE GO DOWN?

TMP

TMP

TMP

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

NO WORRIES.

HUFF

HUFF

THIS IS DELICIOUS.

THUMP

ドン

ドン

THUMP

SHE'LL BE GONE ONCE THEY GET DIVORCED.

ドン

THUMP

YOU'RE GOOD AT MAKING TEA.

ドン

THUMP

...CHAKO.

FUTABA-CHAN!!

WHEN DID YOU COME DOWN...?!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY...

SOB

SORRY. I'M NOT MAD...!

WHAT?!

SOB SOB SOB

...NO...

...DON'T DIVORCE ISSHIN...

WHAT?!

WHAT? WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

DON'T LEAVE ME...

CHAKO...

I'M MARRIED!!

BECAUSE I TOLD SUCH AN AWFUL LIE.

I GOT HER HOPES UP.

...WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT HOW INSECURE THAT MIGHT MAKE HER.

THEN, I BEHAVED LIKE THAT...

...AS A CHILD WHO'S ALREADY LOST HER MOTHER...

IMAGINE HOW PAINFUL IT WOULD BE TO LOSE YOUR FAMILY AGAIN...

HOW COULD I NOT GET THAT?

IT'S OKAY, FUTABA-CHAN...

IT'S OKAY.

HI, DARLING!

I'M HOME!

HEY...

FOR FUTABA-CHAN.

PLEASE GO ALONG WITH IT!

?!

HUG

GLANCE

STAAAAAARE

SEE?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK ISSHIN-SAN?

WELCOME... HOME.

SEE, FUTABA-CHAN? WE ACTUALLY GET ALONG VERY WELL.

WE JUST DON'T SHOW THAT TO PEOPLE.

...YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE SEPARATED...?

...

...YOU WON'T DIVORCE... CHAKO?

NO.

GLANCE ちら

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THIS GIRL CRY ANYMORE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S FAKE, JUST FOR NOW...

WE WILL BE A FAMILY.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.

...YUP!

HEY, HEY. YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO "SAY, AHH"?

ITCH

ITCH

THEY SAY YOU SHOULD STICK TO YOUR LIE TILL THE VERY END.

EXCITED

EXCITED

YOU'RE NOT GONNA SAY "HAVE A NICE DAY, DARLING♡" ...?

HEHE

HEHE

YOU'RE NOT GONNA SLEEP IN THE SAME BED?

4th Cup Watch Out for the Man

I wanna snuggle too.

…

ぴょんHOP

ぴょんHOP

My memo

Rules for Fake Couple

● Get along well in front of Futaba-chan.

Rules

ドドドド…

DOOOOOM

DOOM

ドドド

...

HOW FAR SHOULD WE GO WITH THIS...?

FOR HOW LONG...?

...UNTIL IT'S OKAY TO STOP.

WE HAVE TO SKIRT WHATEVER WE CAN'T DO, AND JUST KEEP THIS GOING...

...WHAT DID HE SAY?

...

Oh!

I ALREADY TOLD HIM...

...JUST IN CASE, WE SHOULD TELL YABUKI ABOUT THIS...

WHAT?!

GOOD JOB, CHAKO!

HE'S GOOD AT HIS JOB, AND CARING.

AND ABOVE ALL, I CAN TRUST HIM.

ALSO...

AS LONG AS THERE'S A REASON FOR ISSHIN TO KEEP WORKING HERE, I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS...

しゃり EDGE

...IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S FAKE OR NOT.

WHAT?!

WHAAAT?!

しゃり EDGE

I WAS AFRAID THAT SOMEDAY ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS WOULD TAKE HIM AWAY...

We can pay you more than Hananoki-en.

Hey, would you like to work for us?

...ISSHIN MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

Well, you're right...

IF YOU CAN...

ANYWAY, HANANOKI-EN NEEDS HIM.

?

...OH, NEVER MIND.

...PLEASE MAKE HIM FALL FOR YOU, CHAKO.

SWOOSH

I MEAN... WELL... I DON'T, BUT...

WHAT?!

YOU DON'T WANT THIS TEA FARM TO CLOSE DOWN, DO YOU?

...RIGHT. THAT'S A GREAT IDEA...!

...HUH?!

HUHHH?!

Like a bear or some-thing?!

TRAP HIM BY THEN.

YOU HAVE UNTIL FUTABA ENTERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

...I'M THINKING ABOUT LETTING GO OF THE LAND.

IF WE CAN'T TURN AROUND THE BUSINESS BY THEN...

THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE TOLD ISSHIN AS WELL.

WHAT?

YOU CAN HAVE A CHILD FIRST.

...THAT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THIS ALL GOES DOWN, AS LONG AS THE PLAN COMES TO FRUITION.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

DON'T COUNT ON ME!!

What do you think I am?!

WE HAVE TWO MORE YEARS UNTIL FUTABA ENTERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

SIGH

はぁ

ANYWAY...

MY BROTHER WAS...V-VERY UNDERSTANDING...

OH... OKAY...

I'M THINKING ABOUT LETTING GO OF THE LAND.

YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT...

...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS?

...BUT IF ISSHIN-SAN LEAVES HERE... FUTABA-CHAN WILL...

I DON'T WANNA LISTEN TO MY BROTHER...

...BUT YOU CAN'T BE LIKE "I CHANGED MY MIND."

I KNOW IT'S ON ME THAT I WENT IN ON THE LIE, TOO...

GRRRR

...THAT MAKES FUTABA-CHAN WORRY AGAIN...

...I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING...

TAP TAP TAP TAP

...YOU'RE RIGHT. ADD "DON'T INTERFERE TOO MUCH WITH EACH OTHER."

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY WOMAN TROUBLES THAT COULD BE A BAD INFLUENCE ON FUTABA-CHAN...!!

I WON'T STICK MY NOSE IN YOUR BUSINESS, THOUGH.

トン TMP

トン TMP

My memo

Rules

Rules for Fake Couple

I ADDED IT 'CAUSE I DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU SAID IT TO ME.

Rules for Fake Couple

- Get along well in front of Futaba-chan.
- No Interference.
- Don't say "gross."

...WHAT'S THAT?

The last one.

WHY DO WOMEN NAG SO MUCH...?

GRRR

...YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE OVER SUCH A TINY THING...?

MEN

BAM

...IS ALSO PROHIBITED !!

...WAY YOU BLAME THINGS ON ME BEING A WOMAN...

THAT...

TAP TAP TAP

...

domoco

ALL

My memo

Rules

Rules for Fake Couple

- Get along well in front of Futaba-chan.
- No interference
- Dont say "gross."
- No domestic violence

SST

VRRRRR

HUFF

HUFF

HI, FUTABA-CHAN.

...

IS SHE EMO-TIONALLY UNSTA-BLE...?

?

...FUTABA-CHAN, IS THE SEAWEED OKAY?

HSST

EEP!

POMF

"EEP"? C'MON!

HEY.

WHY? OF COURSE, TO HELP OUT IN THE TEA FIELD.

...ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT...?

JI... JIN... WHY ARE YOU HERE...?

I MEAN, I'VE BEEN IRRITATED SINCE YESTERDAY...

...SO I WAS TRYING TO RUN AND SWEAT IT OUT...

CHAKO, WHY ARE YOU SO SWEATY?

And you're wearing so much clothing.

ALSO, I'M TAKING CARE OF THIS LADY.

STOP SAYING "THIS LADY"! I'M MARINA!

Bwaha

SWEAT IT OUT?

SEE, CHAKO? THIS IS WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU!

WHOOSH

THEN I'M HAPPY.

HEY, STOP.

SO THAT MADE YOU HAPPY, HUH.

YOU THINK SAYING THAT KINDA THING MAKES WOMEN HAPPY, DON'T YOU...?

Trained conditioned response.

THAT'S NOT FAIR. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, AND NOW THERE'S NOBODY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

WOW, THAT HURTS.

EEK!

THAT'S WHY GIRLS WHO LIKE YOU ALWAYS HATE ME...

Haaaaaah.

WELL, LET'S FORGIVE THEM, FUTABA-CHAN.

THEY'RE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO FORGET ABOUT THE LITTLE KIDS...

BECAUSE UNCLE JIN IN PARTICULAR REALLY CAN'T HELP IT. HE *IS* MR. NO-PERSONAL-SPACE, Y'KNOW. IT'S JUST HIS INSTINCTS.

...WE ARE...

...RIGHT HERE.

WHAT?!

DASH

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, FUTABA-CHAN?!

You didn't like your nickname, "Futaban"?!

FLASH

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MARIRIN?

THAT'S LOVE RIGHT THERE, FUTABAN! AND A LONGTIME ONE AT THAT! (ASSUMPTIONS)

FLASH

WHAT...? I WAS JUST WORKING HARD AND LIVING MY LIFE.

...SO...

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING NOT COMING BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN FOR FOUR YEARS?

...IF I EVER CAME BACK HERE...

...IT MIGHT MAKE ME RUN AWAY FROM VARIOUS THINGS...

DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT I WANTED TO LIVE BY MYSELF BECAUSE I WAS SPOILED AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE?

YOU COULD HAVE VISITED HERE AT LEAST ONCE, YOU KNOW?

...

I MEAN... YOU ARE TOTALLY RIGHT, BUT...

HE'S GOT A POINT ...!!

...WELL, CHAKO. YOU CAME BACK TO RUN AWAY FROM A GUY, RIGHT?

Oh.

CHAKO, THAT LOOKS WEIRD.

WHAT?! WHAT DOES?!

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE THAT YOU GOT MARRIED RIGHT AFTER THAT.

I FELT THE SAME THING THE OTHER DAY...

...BUT WHY ARE YOU TRYING SO HARD TO PUT ON A SMILE?

NO, NO... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M...

SINCE WHEN? HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THAT FOREVER?

ARE YOU OKAY?

...MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT?

WHY WOULD A NEWLY MARRIED PERSON...

IT'S OKAY IF YOU'RE HAPPY.

BUT IF YOU'RE NOT...

OR AT WORK, I'VE BEEN...

FWIP

IS IT THAT WEIRD...? I GUESS I'M GETTING OLD...

I...

...WILL COME GET YOU.

JUST KIDDING...

FWIP

THIS JOKE IS NOT FUNNY, JIN.

WHOOOOOOAAA?!

WHAT?

GRAB

THUMP

HUH?

I got it, Isshin!

Don't get so angry!

OUCH...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THROW ME IN.

THUD

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS, RIGHT?

IF YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WITH JIN....

HE'S NOT A BAD GUY...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...

NO... JIN IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT...

HAAAAH...

OH?

WHAT IS IT...? IT'S SO SUDDEN...

THIS IS KINDA...

what?

DID YOU HEAR THAT, FUTABA?

ぶおおお BLUUUUUSH

SERIOUSLY? THIS GUY IS...

Isshin!! Chako's in trouble. He'll take her away!! He'll eat her!!

STOMP ドドド

STOMP ドドド

STOMP

SHE WAS FREAKED OUT AND RAN TO ME.

DON'T MAKE HER WORRIED.

HEH

HEH

WORRIED ...?

SHWP

SHWP

WHY DID I THINK HE MIGHT BE JEALOOOUS?

ERASE THE THOUGHT.

ERASE THE THOUGHT.

WIPE

WIPE

ERASE THE THOUGHT.

DO I...

...LOOK AT HIM IN A ROMANTIC WAY...?

OH, NO... IT MIGHT CHANGE HOW I LOOK AT HIM...

OH MY GOSH. I HOPE HE DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING.

Sudden fit of cleaning.

I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING WITH JIN...

...BUT I MIGHT HAVE FELT SOMETHING WITH ISSHIN-SAN...!!

IT MIGHT BE THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE EFFECT...!

I GUESS I WAS TOO SURPRISED, YOU KNOW...

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS BEFORE, THOUGH...!

SERIOUSLY...? THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE...

...GETTING EXHAUSTED AND SLEEPING IS THE BEST...!!

KNOT

IN TIMES LIKE THIS...

NO...! I SHOULDN'T THINK INTO THIS SO MUCH!

BAM

- Running 6km
- 100 Squats
- 100 Sit-ups
- 100 Push-ups

OH? DID SOMEONE LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON IN THE WAREHOUSE...? IS ISSHIN-SAN IN THERE...?

CRUNCH

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

NO, NO, NO WAY... IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...!

IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT CAN'T...

CREAK

キィ

CREAK

CREAK

キィ

CREAK

CREAK

キィ

CREAK

WHAT? WHAT...

IS THIS SOUND?!

CREAK

キィ

CREAK

WHAT IF HE BROUGHT A WOMAN IN HERE?

キィ

HMM

RATTLE

SHUT

YOU, IDIOT! SHUT THE DOOR!!

NOW!!

GASP

CHAKO.

WHOOSH

...WE TALK TO THE TEA...

...USING ALL FIVE SENSES.

CHAKO.

WHEN MAKING TEA...

THESE TEA LEAVES...

THAT'S...

WE KEEP THEM CLOSE...

...TALK A LOT.

...AND TALK A LOT WITH THEM.

I...I'M SORRY... THE TEA LEAVES GOT COLD 'CAUSE I OPENED THE DOOR, RIGHT...?!

...NO.

SQUEEZE

ギュッ

GASP

はっ

...TEMOMI-CHA.*

*HAND-ROLLED TEA

I'M NOWHERE NEAR YOUR FATHER'S SKILL.

...SORRY.

...I CAN'T MAKE IT WELL, ANYWAY.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...

...WELL... I HOPE TO BE LIKE HIM...

...IT'S JUST THAT I THINK HE SAVED MY LIFE.

YOU KNOW MY FATHER?

I HAD A CHANCE TO MEET HIM A LONG TIME AGO.

I... ISSHIN-SAN!

IF ONLY I COULD BECOME GOOD ENOUGH TO OPEN THE STORE HERE AGAIN, THEN...

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T MAKE IT TASTE JUST LIKE HIS...

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO YOUR FATHER...

THESE... THESE RECORDS ON THE LID OF THE HOIRO*...

*A HEAT WORK TABLE FOR MAKING HAND-ROLLED TEA.

THIS IS AMAZING...!!

YEAR
年度
1等4席
1ST CLASS 4TH PLACE
1等3席
1ST CLASS 3RD PLACE
3等38席
3RD CLASS 38TH PLACE

...WELL... YEAH...

THE ONE UNDER THIS LINE IS YOUR RECORD...?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE, I'M HAPPY...!

Also, I wrote that down without permission.

A STRANGER TRYING TO MAKE YOUR OWN FAMILY'S TEMOMI-CHA?

YOU DON'T MIND...?

THIS IS SO COOL!

I WISH I'D KNOWN ABOUT IT EARLIER...!

NOTICE

WHY ISSHIN OF ALL PEOPLE...?

CHAKO...

YOU'RE SILLY.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOL. 2

Special Thanks
(In no particular order):

Onishi-en Tea Factory

Arai-en Honten Inc.

Wataru Setani-sama in the Production Department

Chiyoko Sato-sama at Seibu Tokorozawa Branch

Sayama-cha Komai-en

Takashi Komai-sama

Hirono Komai-sama

Sayama-cha Nishizawa-en Yosuke Nishizawa-sama

Iruma-shi, Saitama

Osake-sama

Kou Suzuki-sama

Mameya-sama

Mitsuki-sama

Maki Murase-sama

Matcha Made in Heaven 1

Kodansha Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2021 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781684914876

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Rie Iwamoto/ Local Manga
Lettering: Barri Shrager/ Local Manga
Ripping: 1r0n
KPS Products Corp.

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